
FEBRUARY 19, 1821.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the table.

A BILL

To prevent abuses in public contracts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*
3 from and after the passage of this act, no clerk in any de-
4 partment, or other person holding an office under the govern-
5 ment of the United States, shall, directly or indirectly, him-
6 self, or by any other person in trust for him, or for his use
7 or benefit, or on his account, undertake, execute, hold, or
8 enjoy, in the whole or in part, any contract or agreement
9 hereafter to be made or entered into with any officer of the
10 United States, in their behalf, or with any person authorized
11 to make contracts on the part of the United States; and if
12 any clerk or other person holding an office under the govern-
13 ment of the United States, shall, directly or indirectly, him-
14 self, or by any other person in trust for him, or for his use
15 or benefit, or on his account, enter into, accept of, agree for,

16 undertake or execute, any such contract or agreement, in the
17 whole or in part, every such clerk or officer so offending shall,
18 for every such offence, upon conviction thereof before any
19 court of the United States, or of the territories thereof, having
20 cognizance of such offence, be adjudged guilty of a misde-
21 meanor, and shall be fined one thousand dollars, and also be
22 deemed incapable of holding any appointment or office under
23 the government of the United States; and every such contract
24 or agreement as aforesaid shall moreover be absolutely void
25 and of no effect: *Provided nevertheless*, That in all cases
26 where any sum or sums of money shall have been advanced
27 on the part of the United States, in consideration of any such
28 contract or agreement, the same shall be forthwith repaid;
29 and in case of delay or refusal to pay the same when de-
30 manded by the proper officer of the department under whose
31 authority such contract or agreement shall have been made
32 or entered into, every such person so delaying or refusing,
33 together with his surety or sureties, shall be forthwith pro-
34 secuted at law for the recovery of any such sum or sums of
35 money advanced as aforesaid.